

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

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Charles A. Hayles **A Man Out Of Time**



*Charles A. Hayles as a young man in the 1890's.
(1873-1975)*

George Hayles came to Rutland from England in 1867 and was a printer employed by Albert Tuttle of Tuttle Company. Around 1878, he moved his family, which consisted of three boys and two girls, to Poultney. He worked with R.J. Humphrey at the Poultney Journal and was later engaged in job printing with Barnes Frisbie.

The elder Hayles did not stay too long with any one job (a trait Charles may have inherited) and moved the family to towns in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. While in New York, he contracted a fever, became deranged, leaped into a canal and drowned.

Hayles' family then returned to Rutland and Mrs. Hayles went to work for a Mrs. Howard at the Depot Restaurant. In order to help his mother, ten-year-old Charles hired out to a Hubbardton farmer named Frank Cahee. At this time he was able to attend two schools for a total of eight years.

In the early 1890's, Charles left the farm for Brandon. He was employed by Charles Smith, manager of the Brandon and Vergennes Electric Light Company. Charles boarded with Smith, who lived upstairs in the First National Bank building on the north side of the bridge. His room was in the attic where the half-round window can still be seen.

With Smith he helped install wiring in the new Hotel Brandon. The hoisting of the large bell to the belfry of the Congregational Church was a sight Charles often recalled.

Charles also had duties at the power station which belonged to Charles and Ed Briggs. It was located on the east side of Center Street near the falls and ran on steam and water power. On the evening of 26 August 1892, when Hayles and Joseph Germond were tending the power plant, disaster struck. The boiler exploded, blowing out the side of the building and killing Germond's father, Adolphus, who was visiting. Hayles suffered burns and was pinned under the wreckage for a short time.



A photo taken after the explosion at the Brandon and Vergennes Electric Light Company in Brandon. Hayles was injured and another man was killed.



Center Street, Brandon, following the explosion. The half-round attic window of Hayles' rented room is visible above the First National Bank at left center.

Following the explosion Hayles returned to Rutland and worked for the telephone company operating the switchboard at night. He soon became a telephone inspector and was sent to Montpelier to change over area phones from their old owner to their new one, New England Bell. Next, he was sent to Morrisville as a repairman and worked for a Mr. Healy. He also assisted Will Hurley in the installation of fans.

Nine months later he was in Newport. Hayles described the job as follows:

Here, I was everything. No limit for a willing hand. Here is what they did to me. Keep the office and switchboard in order, put in and take out phones, chase all line troubles, keep all phones in order, do the collecting of money and stay at last in the office at night and answer the calls at night. Enough to break your spirit. Walk out two miles on a line trouble. Then, if you don't come to it, walk back and get a team [of horses]. If out of town at mealtime, don't get one over 25 cents. These are the towns I had to keep in order: Newport, Derby, Newport Center, Derby Line, Morgan, Barton, Coventry, . . . West Derby, South Barton and North Troy. Nothing to do here but work. Then I left Newport and worked here [Rutland] for a spell. Then went to work for Clark and Matthews in their repair shop doing all odds and ends, including all electrical work and rewiring motors. After about three years I left there and started to do house wiring and repairs which I have done now for about 40 years. I have wired 148 houses all alone. Enough for one lifetime.

Busy as he had been in Newport, Hayles still found time for his sweetheart, Halley Jane Gates. He wrote her the following letter:

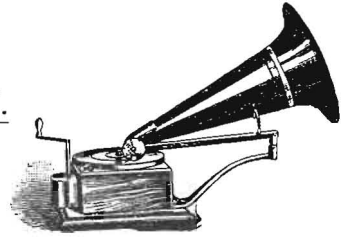
C. A. HAYLES,

AGENT FOR THE

GRAMOPHONE.

*Records, Needle Points,
Carrying Cases and Supplies
on hand.*

All orders filled promptly.



Office at Ranney & Co.'s.

Newport, Vt.

May 5, 1901

Dearest Halley,

I received your welcome letter all OK and was very glad to hear from my loved one again. The weather has been cold and windy for the last two days. The grass is up about three inches. It has been fine weather here for about a month.

I am sorry you are having such a bad time with your teeth. Is your mother all right now, at least I hope so. I sold another Zonophone yesterday. I have played to two more dances since I wrote you last. We have hired a room for the orchestra to practice in. I have tuned up my piano and moved it to the room. It is not a very good one but it will do.

I am beginning to get excited by the thought of meeting you again very soon. I am thinking if I do not come home soon I will lose you by what you said in your last letter.

I have made up my mind to leave the six-foot horn at home. I have made an improvement by which I get as loud a tone with the small horn. I am a-going to write a patent attorney and see if I can get it patented.

We have a big gang of telephone men here now and more a-coming. I will probably have time to write you once more before I meet you. I would be pleased to put that [ring] on your finger if you would consider me worthy of it. You certainly are. I love you in the same old way.

You will notice I have inserted some names of songs. I will now close for the time with my best love to you.

from Chas.

My Little Rutland Rose
I Wonder If She Is Waiting
I Waited Honey Waited Long For You
I Can't Tell Why I Love You
But I Do, Do, Do
Tell Me If You Love Me For That's
The Sweetest Story Ever Told
Would You Leave Your Happy Home
For Me?
When We Meet To Part No More

Halley



Halley not only saved the letter but accepted his proposal. They were married on 22 August 1901. A son, Albert Earle, was born in 1913. Once settled back in Rutland, Hayles engaged in many other enterprises in addition to his electrical work.



Hayles' store at 57 West Street. Note the children in the foreground probably hurrying to the nearby Longfellow School.

Somewhere he found time to manufacture a line of phonographs called The Vermont. The models were: The Pico, The Otter, The Dunmore, The Killington, and the top of the line, The Marble City.

These were built by Hayles and Ernest W. Senecal. The prototype was put on view at Senecal's photographic studio on Center Street in the spring of 1903. In April they opened a store at 57 West Street in the building formerly occupied by the Direct Importing Tea Company. Senecal did not stay long in the business. Hayles became an agent for Puritan Phonographs in addition to his own. He also sold Okeh, Lyric and Puritan records. He repaired all brands of "talking machines." By 1913 he was located at 135 West Street.

(Right) One of the higher priced models of The Vermont series of phonographs.

(Below) Hayles' letterhead from his 135 West Street store in 1913.



THE PURITAN

Telephone 811-J
Residence 1033-M

C. A. HAYLES ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Cut Rate Electrical Fixtures and Supplies

Vermont and Puritan Phonographs Okeh, Lyric and Puritan Records

Expert Repairing on all Makes of Machines

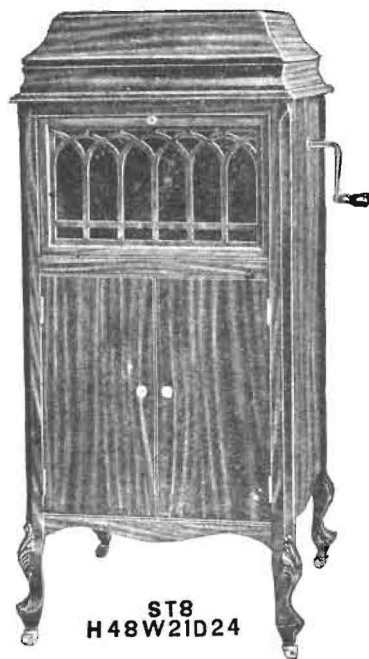
135 WEST STREET



THE VERMONT

April 26 1913

VERMONT



**ST8
H48W21D24**

KILLINGTON PRICE \$175.00

Equipped with strong, double spring motor. 12-inch turn table. Automatic stop. Tone modifying device. Universal tone arm for playing all makes of disc records and electric flash light. Shelves for records. All trimmings gold plated. Height, 48 inches; width, 22 inches; depth, 24 inches.

VERMONT



**ST8
H48W21D24**

MARBLE CITY PRICE \$250.00

Equipped with strong, double spring motor. 12-inch turn table. Automatic stop. Tone modifying device. Universal tone arm for playing all makes of disc records. Vertical rack with electric flash light patent pull knob attachment, holding 70 records and automatic repeater stop to repeat records once, twice or three times as required. All trimmings gold plated. Height, 48 inches; width, 22 inches; depth, 24 inches.



VERMONT

Phonographs

Sweet in Tone
Clear in Expression

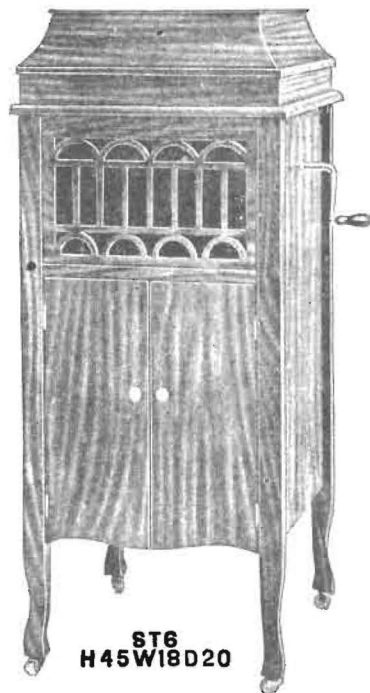
Manufactured by

C. A. HAYLES

Rutland, Vermont

TELEPHONE CONNECTION

VERMONT

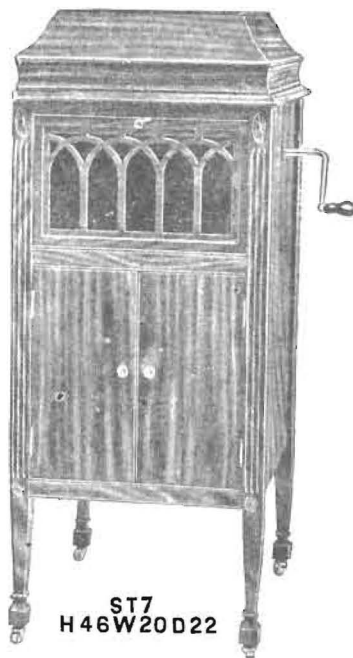


ST6
H45W18D20

PICO PRICE \$100.00

Equipped with strong, double spring motor, 12-inch turn table. Automatic stop. Tone modifying device. Universal tone arm for playing all makes of disc records. All trimmings nickel plated. Shelves for records. Height, 44 inches; width, 18½ inches; depth, 20 inches.

VERMONT

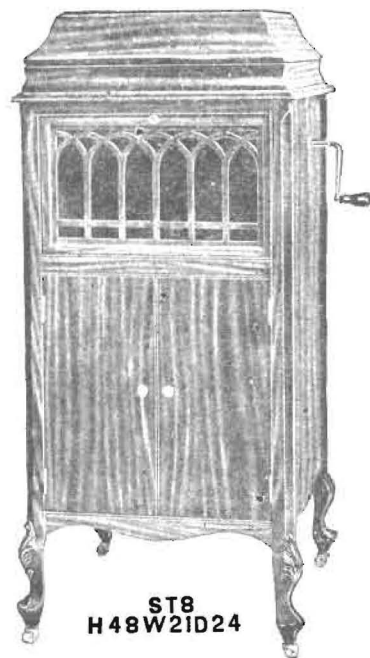


ST7
H46W20D22

OTTER PRICE \$125.00

Equipped with strong, double spring motor, 12-inch turn table. Automatic stop. Tone modifying device. Universal tone arm for playing all makes of disc records. All trimmings nickel plated. Shelves for records. Height, 48 inches; width, 22 inches; depth, 22 inches.

VERMONT



ST8
H48W21D24

DUNMORE PRICE \$150.00

Equipped with strong, double spring motor, 12-inch turn table. Automatic stop. Tone modifying device. Universal tone arm for playing all makes of disc records. All trimmings nickel plated. Shelves for records. Height, 48 inches; width, 22 inches; depth, 22 inches.



This Hayles' postcard documents the pleasant, refined atmosphere of O'Brien's resort hotel built in Hydeville in 1906.



In 1913 Halley waited patiently in the family auto on Center Street while Charles took a photograph during Rutland Carnival and Fair Week.

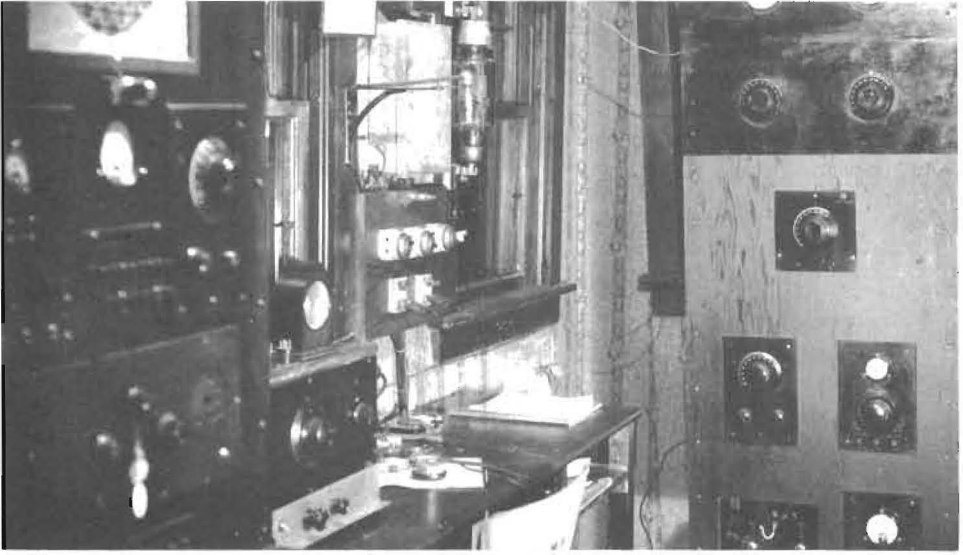


Rutland aviator, George Schmitt, was killed in a tragic airplane crash during the Rutland Fair on 2 September 1913. Hayles hurried to the scene to make this historic photograph. Local people were stunned by the death of young Schmitt who moments earlier had been thrilling them with the maneuvers of his Curtiss biplane. Hayles' photo recorded the curiosity and disbelief of the spectators.



*(Top) The Hayles' pleasant Queen Anne style home on Crescent Street.
(Below) Halley entertained guests in her tastefully decorated sitting room.*





Hayles' pursuit of the new and unusual was evidenced in his Crescent Street house which overflowed with interesting objects. One room was devoted to wire-less equipment which was used to keep in touch with other radio enthusiasts around the country. He even had an early X-ray machine. In other rooms he had an extensive stamp collection.



(l.) Charles with brothers Larry and George and (r.) Charles in old age.

For most young men of late 19th Century America, the beginning of the 20th Century promised unbounded opportunity to explore and invent almost anything. Not everyone succeeded. Not everyone got wealthy. But success and wealth were not synonymous. For all it was a heady time of photos and movies, phonographs and radios, gasoline-driven autos and all the gadgets that electricity could operate. In Rutland, Charles Hayles was in the forefront of 20th Century progress.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of appropriate dues. (See dues schedule below.) Membership provides a subscription to the Quarterly, "News from Nickwackett", entitlement to vote at business meetings, and benefits accruing from support of the Society's exhibits, programs, collections and library. The year through which membership is paid and the category of membership are noted on all address labels.

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	Regular—\$10.00	Senior Citizens—\$8.00
		(62 & up)

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